

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15580 271213Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 CCO-00

ACDA-05 OC-05 SCCT-01 EB-07 SCA-01 SY-05 DHA-02 /103 W

----- 040550

O R 271056Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7862

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGENGER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 15580 271213Z

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE  
XTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
DIA WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15580

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, LE  
SUBJECT: SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

REF: BEIRUT 15564

1. BURNING OLIVE OIL FACTORY IN BEIRUT SUBURB OF DEKWANEH IS ADDING TO GENERALLY OVERCAST DAY IN LEBANESE CAPITAL WHERE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS AND PUNDITS ARE EXPERIENCING INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING UPON THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION. BEIRUT RADIO MORNING DEC 17 IS SPEWING FORTH CONTRADICTORY REPORTS IN ARABIC AND FRENCH REGARDING THE STATE OF SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY. DESPITE SOME REPORTS THAT BEIRUT SPENT ONE OF THE QUIETEST NIGHT IN RECENT WEEKS, EMBOFFS IN RAS BEIRUT HEARD OVERNIGHT FIGHTING AS EAST (CHRISTIAN) AND WEST (MUSLIM) TRADED MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE. NEVERTHELESS, ON THE BASIS OF OUR LIMITED OBSERVATIONS THIS MORNING NUMBER OF ARMED MEN IN CITY'S STREETS HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED. CONSENSUS OF KNOWLEDGE-ABLE COMMENTATORS IS THAT BETWEEN 35 AND 40 PERSONS WERE KILLED IN BEIRUT OVER THE LAST 24 HOURS. TRIPOLI IS REPORTED QUIET; ALTHOUGH ZAHLE IS THE SUBJECT OF CONFUSING REPORTS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED GREATLY.

2. POLITICAL SCENE IS HARDLY MORE CLEAR, BUT PREVAILING MOOD DEC 27 IS MILDLY UPBEAT, BASIS FOR GUARDED OPTIMISM IS CONVICTION THAT SYRIANS HAVE QUIETLY CIRCULATED QUOTE BROAD OUTLINES UNQUOTE OF COMPROMISE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI'S TALKS IN BEIRUT AND PRIMIN KARAME'S CONSULTATIONS IN DAMASCUS. NO AUTHORIZED TEXT OF SYRIAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 15580 271213Z

SUGGESTIONS HAS SURFACED AND PRESS IS PLAYING SPECULATIVE GAME REGARDING CONTENTS. DETAILS, HOWEVER, ARE LESS SIGNIFICANT IMMEDIATELY THAN FACT THAT ALMOST ALL LEBANESE FACTIONS APPEAR TO REGARD REASONED COMPROMISE TO BE BOTH POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY. EVEN KBAL JUMBLATT APPEARS MORE OPTIMISTIC IN PUBLIC UTTERANCES, FINDING NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT KAMAL ASSAD AND THE PARLIMENTARY COMMITTEE THAT HAS BEEN ANQEMPTING TO HAMMER

OUT REFORM PROPOSALS.

3. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF ALLEGED ARRESTS IN SYRIA, CLOSURE OF THE BORDER WITH LEBANON, ETC. HAVE VIED OVER LAST DAY OR SO WITH LEBANON'S HOME GROWN DIFFICULTIES FOR ATTENTION OF LEBANESE. ONCE AGAIN, HOWEVER, THERE IS BROAD DIS-AGREEMENT REGARDING WHEN, OR INDEED, IF THE BORDER WAS CLOSED AND, IF SO, WHY.

4. NEXT SITREP PLANNED FOR MONDAY.  
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, PROGRESS REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT15580  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750448-0355  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751210/aaaaaitc.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 15564  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PFOR, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006